



# Adult Learning Center News

Summer 2011

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## Director's Message

### Milestones along the journey:

### Graduation is among the most rewarding for all of us at DALC!

Always a moving experience, this year's graduation topped the charts for inspiration and exuberance. In rousing displays of support and enthusiasm, the graduates applauded each other and every individual speaker, with words of encouragement and frequent standing ovations.

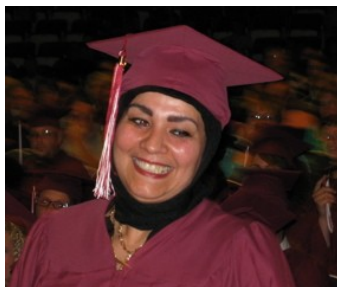
Linda Scrofano, DALC graduate of 1990 held the audience captive with her inspirational recounting of her life as a single mother of three, through her graduation from McIntosh, and then Daniel Webster Colleges, to professional employment in HR management with the Baker Company and on to owning her own consulting company. She encouraged this year's graduates to hold their heads high when they tell a potential employer that they have their GED because it is something to be proud of, not ashamed of, and she should know!



Linda Scrofano

In the highlight of every DALC graduation, the three graduate essay winners shared their stories of courage and determina-

tion as they journeyed to high school completion. While the details of each woman's life are unique, the strength to persevere and the gratitude towards those who helped them make it was a common thread. Souad Abouyassine spoke of wanting to be a role model for her young son.



Souad Abouyassine

Rae Dawn Chong spoke of the importance of completing her high school education despite having a successful career in film. Rebecca Champagne, who had attended four different high schools and had given up on herself came to the Dover Adult Learning Center and for the first time felt she could achieve her goals.

Graduates were lauded and supported by many community leaders. Senator Amanda Merrill spoke of the importance of rituals to mark significant events in our lives and Dover Superintendent of Schools, Jean Briggs Badger recognized that the diverse paths we all take through

our lives by reading the last stanza of "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost.

Mark Boulanger, of Raiche and Company awarded three \$500 Rotary scholarships Amelia Evans-Brown, Puspita Dewi and Souad Abouyassine. Additional DALC scholarships were awarded to Ashlee Randall, Christine Roland, Jordan Rouse, and Kaitlynn Brooks. These seven graduates will continue their journeys scholarships and fresh diplomas in hand.

Tom Levasseur, of the Beacon Retirement group was so moved by the ceremony, in which his son Brent received his adult high school diploma, that he decided to establish an annual scholarship



Brent Levasseur

in the name of Minnett Induisi, Brent's counselor and advocate.

Mayor Scott Myers said that of all the events he attends, this is one of his favorites. I couldn't agree more. The pride and joy evident on the faces of the graduates and the hundreds of

family members and friends fill me with a great sense of reward and gratitude to be able to make this tremendous opportunity available to all students in Strafford County who want to finish school and to be a part of an organization and community that believes in the ability of all people to learn.

If you missed the live event, you can still see it on Channel 95, Dover's Education Channel. Mike Gillis of the Dover Media Center was kind enough to videotape the entire graduation, so no one need miss their graduate's moment in the sun.

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## In Their Own Words - Student Writing

### One Step Closer to My Dreams

by S.R.

I had lost hope about where my life was going, and who I had become. I had no goals set for myself and had given up on everything and everyone. I was a 16-year-old high school dropout, an addict, and at 17 I became a young mother.

Before I chose to go into the therapeutic community program at Strafford County Department of Corrections, I was planning to stay in general population and max out on probation. What a mistake that would have been.

I had always felt like I was looked down on for things I've done, but coming into the program opened up my eyes in more ways than I can explain in this short speech. It's pushed me to do all the uncomfortable things I didn't think I could do, nor did I want to do, and one of them was taking the GED test.

I felt so dumb. I knew I could read and write, but my problem was math. It's been a struggle my whole life. Well, you all pushed me and made me feel supported in-

stead of degraded. When I thought I couldn't do it, you all kept telling me I could. Well, guess what? I did it! I can now make the life I've always wanted for my son and me.

I want to work as an advocate for teens in group homes. I grew up in those places and want to help teens like me from progressing to jail like I did. That's one reason I want to pursue my degree in psychology. My biggest dream has always been to work at Sea World with dolphins, and I also have an interest in cosmetology. These are all the things I've wanted to do my whole life and never had the chance to do.

As you can see, I have many dreams and I no longer have to be afraid to go after them. My GED brings me one step closer to accomplishing these dreams.

We learn one day at a time. Well, I'm taking it one step at a time and I'm one step closer to my future goals, onto another journey in my life.

I couldn't have done it without the help and support of all of you, especially Minnett, Muriel, and Jake. Everyone, thank you so much.

### Reading is a Good Thing in My Life

by Roger Fernald

Reading is fun. I read during the day until we close the shades. Then I have to quit because there's not enough light to read.

I get involved in stories. I like any Louis L'Amour western. I get into it and I don't want to back out. It keeps my interest and I want to keep going. I'll get into a chapter where there's a lot of action like a lot of gun fights or trying to protect someone.

I am becoming a better reader. The more I read, the better I will get at taking my GED reading test. Reading is reading. I understand what I read better.

Reading gives me something to do when I'm bored and I have nothing else to do. I can just pick up a book when I can't go outside and tinker on things, when I can't fix my truck, when I don't have money to go anywhere, when I have no job.

I enjoy the book more the further into the book I get.

## Friends of the Center

### Founder's Circle (\$500+)

Abraham Burtman Charity Trust  
Dean Childs  
First Church Parish  
Kathryn Forbes  
Measured Progress, Inc.  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Carlo Nittoli & Jim Verschueren  
Tasker Family  
John & Julia Ver Ploeg  
Kathleen A. Wallace

### Advocate (\$250+)

William Badgley & Carol McEntee  
Christopher T. Blake  
Ann & Arthur Corte  
Dr. James & Maria Faskianos  
Norman M. Gonthier  
Thomas R. Jost  
Charles D. Reynolds  
C. Valerie Smith  
Walmart Foundation  
David & Belinda White  
Douglas K. Wyckoff

### Benefactor (\$100+)

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Jean Bullen  
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Dianne C., Dean  
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Joe & Paula Dubois  
Marsha Seibert Foster  
Robert & Marjorie Goldberg  
Esther J. Gray  
Mark L. Hale  
Gretchen Hill  
Leigh F. Ivey Jr.  
Richard Kaufmann  
Margareth Kieschnick & Philip Hatcher  
Anthony & Minnett Induizi  
Pamela Krans  
Madbury Community Club  
Teresa H. McDonnell  
Jack & Judy Mettee  
John & Jane O'Connor

One More Referral  
Lucy & Charles Putnam  
Seacoast IBM Users Group  
Susan O. Smith  
Ronald N. St. Germain  
Dr. & Mrs. David B. Staples  
Paul & Deana Strand  
Lisa Janicki; Eric Janicki & Margaret Foley  
Judith Ullman  
JoAnn Vatcher

### Friend (\$40+)

Sandra Ackler  
Maybeth Anderson  
Shea Avery  
C & K Beaudoin  
Mary Buese  
Nancy L. Downs  
Dupont's Service Center  
Elizabeth G. Feuer  
Peter & Joyce Forsythe  
Margareth L. Gerung  
Tom & Aline Goss  
Haus Family  
Joseph A. Hults

Russell & Kate Huntress  
Cathenne Johnston  
Susan Long  
Darlene & Wayne McEwan  
Joe & Maggie Moore  
Dennis Munson  
Earl Neal  
Bev O'Brien  
Sandra Phipps  
Pamela Raley  
Tiffany D. Sargent  
Ann Schultz  
Martin & Patricia Sorensen  
Anne & Bruce Smith  
Tasker Funeral Home  
Walmart/Rochester  
Elizabeth Warner

### Bequests

Estate of Patrick M. Raftery

# Center Stars -Jim

Jim wanted to learn to read better. His reading skills were not good. He had to quit school at age 16 to earn money for the family. And, when he had been in school, "I knew how to goof off, that's what I did."

Working in a tannery, which he called a sweatshop, for 42 years did not require reading. After that job ended he felt fortunate to find another job three years ago driving for a car dealership. Reading better would be a plus.

Despite his years, he will be 68 years old in July, he decided it was time to make his dream come true. So he called Dover Adult Learning Center because he had heard for years that the Center could help with his wish.

Through Debbie Liskow, he was set up with a tutor last year. The tutor began his reading improvement by looking at road maps. As he has an excellent memory,



he had been able to negotiate directions and locations before through his directional memory. Now he can actually read the places on a map.

Meeting once a week with his tutor, his reading skills began to improve and continue to improve. His tutor went on maternity leave, but did not forget Jim.

Debbie set Jim up with another tutor, and he continues to read daily besides his weekly meetings with the tutor.

Every morning he reads two pages a day or twenty minutes in the books she gives him. Sometimes he surprises himself by being able to read a lot of the newspaper.

He now has a library card. He took a computer class and has learned how to use the computer in two weeks, he says. And he says he can now read two pages in a row and miss only one word.

Recently he took the reading test again, and his improvement showed. He received a card in the mail from his first tutor who congratulated him on his tremendous progress. "I guess it's never too late!" said Jim.

# Welcome to Our New Board Members



**Bob Renshaw**

Bob Renshaw of Madbury, NH is Director- Information Technology, Commercial Markets Finance, at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Dover, NH.

Renshaw brings a wealth of experience in business planning, financial management, technology project management, and training. He has always been interested in the "people" aspects of how we learn, improve and do our best. Renshaw looks forward to spending more of his time in roles where he can help others.

Jennie Phillips, Dover, NH is a Family Services Manager for Strafford County Head Start, Dover, NH.

Her skills in managing family and community partnerships, information technology, and recruiting; as well as conducting needs assessments, developing program guidelines and grant writing will make her a valuable addition to our board.

Joseph Cicirelli, Strafford is the General Manager/Project Manager at Learning Structures, Inc. Strafford, NH. Cicirelli has 15 years of comprehensive management experience with a strong background in leadership, team building, and program development with a focus on budget implications.



**Joseph Cicirelli**

The Center will surely benefit from his ability to manage unique projects from inception through completion and bringing them in on schedule and within budget.



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603-742-1030

Coming soon...

## Fall Enrichment Classes

We are putting together a great line up of course offerings call 742-1030 or email [dalc@dalc-online.org](mailto:dalc@dalc-online.org) now to get on our mailing list.

### Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County...

...helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.